

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Original): An enzyme derived from an actinomycete of the genus *Streptomyces*, which is capable of degrading a polyhydroxyalkanoate resin, having a molecular weight between approximately 47,000 to 56,000, having an optimum pH between 4 and 10, and having an optimum temperature between 40°C and 55°C.

Claim 2 (Original): The enzyme according to claim 1, which is inductively produced by polyhydroxyalkanoate, hydroxybutyric acid, polyhydroxybutyrate, and/or hydroxybutyric acid ester.

Claim 3 (Original): The enzyme according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the actinomycete of the genus *Streptomyces* is *Streptomyces thermovulgaris*, *Streptomyces thermoolivaceus*, *Streptomyces thermohygroscopicus*, or *Streptomyces thermocarboxydovorans*.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The enzyme according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the actinomycete of the genus *Streptomyces* is a microorganism deposited under accession No. ~~FERM P-19578~~ FERM BP-10158.

- Claim 5 (Currently Amended): A method for degrading a polyhydroxyalkanoate resin, which comprises causing the polyhydroxyalkanoate resin to come into contact with the enzyme according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 4~~ Claim 1 so as to cause the resin to react with the enzyme.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): A method for degrading a polyhydroxyalkanoate resin, which comprises causing the polyhydroxyalkanoate resin to come into contact with an actinomycete of the genus *Streptomyces* so as to cause the resin to react with the ~~actinomycete~~ actinomycete at 40°C to 55°C.

Claim 7 (Original): The method according to claim 6, wherein the actinomycete of the genus *Streptomyces* is *Streptomyces thermovulgaris*, *Streptomyces thermoolivaceus*, *Streptomyces thermohygroscopicus*, or *Streptomyces thermocarboxydovorans*.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): The method according to claim 6, wherein the actinomycete of the genus *Streptomyces* is a microorganism deposited under accession No. ~~FERM P-19578~~ FERM BP-10158.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): An actinomycete of the genus *Streptomyces*, which is capable of degrading a polyhydroxyalkanoate resin and is a microorganism deposited under accession No. ~~FERM P-19578~~ FERM BP-10158.